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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/626)]

50/137. Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and its resolutions on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1/

Reiterating the importance of the Convention, which is one of the most widely accepted human rights instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations,

Aware of the importance of the contributions of the Committee to the efforts of the United Nations to combat racism and all other forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin,

Reiterating once again the need to intensify the struggle for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination throughout the world, especially its most brutal forms,

Emphasizing the obligation of all States parties to the Convention to take legislative, judicial and other measures in order to secure full implementation of the provisions of the Convention,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 2/ in particular section II.B, relating to equality, dignity and tolerance, and General Assembly resolution 49/208 of 23 December 1994, in particular paragraph 7 thereof,

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1/ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

2/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Concerned that the amendment to the Convention regarding the financing of the Committee, as decided upon at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 15 January 1992 3/ and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, has not yet entered into force,

Welcoming efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure interim financial arrangements for the financing of the expenses incurred by the Committee,

Stressing the importance of enabling the Committee to function smoothly and to have all necessary facilities for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee, 4/

1. Commends the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for its work with regard to the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination 5/ and its contribution to the preparation for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

2. Encourages the Committee to contribute fully to the implementation of the Third Decade and its revised Programme of Action, 6/ including by the continued collaboration and flow of information between the Committee and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; 7/

3. Welcomes the cooperation and exchange of information between the Committee and the relevant structures and mechanisms of the United Nations, such as meetings held with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance 8/ and encourages their continuation in the future, including with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

4. Encourages the use of innovatory procedures by the Committee for reviewing the implementation of the Convention in States whose reports are overdue and the formulating of concluding observations on reports of States parties to the Convention;

3/ See A/49/499, annex I.

4/ A/50/467.

5/ Resolution 38/14, annex.

6/ Resolution 49/146, annex.

7/ See A/50/18, chap. VIII.

8/ Ibid., chap. I, para. 13.

5. Commends the Committee for its continuous efforts to improve its contribution to the prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning and urgent procedures, and welcomes its relevant decisions and action thereon; 9/

6. Welcomes decision 9 (46) of 17 March 1995 adopted by the Committee, entitled "Contribution of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education" and general recommendation XIX (47) on article 3 of the Convention; 10/

7. Urges all States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

8. Encourages States to limit the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention and to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible while ensuring that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international law;

9. Expresses its profound concern at the fact that a number of States parties have still not fulfilled their financial obligations, as shown in the report of the Secretary-General; 11/

10. Urges States parties to accelerate their domestic ratification procedures with regard to the amendment to the Convention concerning the financing of the Committee and expeditiously to notify the Secretary-General in writing of their agreement to the amendment, as decided upon at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 3/ on 15 January 1992 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992;

11. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions; 12/

12. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure adequate financial arrangements and appropriate means to enable the functioning of the Committee;

13. Calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to submit in due time their periodic reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and to pay their outstanding contributions;

14. Strongly appeals to all States parties which are in arrears to fulfil their outstanding financial obligations under article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to invite those States parties which are in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

9/ Ibid., chap. II.

10/ Ibid., chap. I, paras. 17 and 18, and annexes III and VII.

11/ A/50/467, annex I.

12/ A/50/18.

16. Decides to consider at its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee and the report of the Committee;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to draw the present resolution to the attention of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

97th plenary meeting
21 December 1995